

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Betty T. Yee Applauds Ninth Circuit Court's Decision Overturning Proposition 8**

*Yee Calls Decision a Victory for Equality*

Betty T. Yee, First District Member of the Board of Equalization, applauded today's U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholding retired Judge Vaughn Walker's trial court decision invalidating Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure that eliminated same-sex marriage. Yee issued the following statement:

"This is another important victory for equality. The court's simple reasoning that Proposition 8 serves no purpose other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gay men and lesbians in California will be heard across the country.

"The strength of this legal victory stands on the personal testimony at the trial court of individual lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families working like all others to raise their children, earn a living, improve their neighborhoods, pay taxes, and do everything else citizens do to make our state the great place it is.

"This decision follows a long line of major precedents protecting minority groups from discrimination at the ballot and brings the nation closer to a goal I deeply cherish: full equality for all."

Board Member Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget at the California Department of Finance, covering a wide array of state and local finance policy matters.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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